

FLIGHT JACKET

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Caution key during liberty in Tijuana

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Tijuana, Mexico, a small border town nearly 30 miles south of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, is commonly recognized as one of the more popular 'party towns' bordering the United States.

With over 36 million people traveling there each year—including drug dealers, thieves and criminals—Tijuana can become quite dangerous.

"If you walk down a back alley, someone could jump you and take all your money," said Sgt. Eric Babcock, military policeman, Provost Marshal's Office, MCAS Miramar. "There are no police to support you, so you can't call them if there is trouble."

According to Staff Sgt. Alex Hernandez, personnel chief, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Miramar servicemembers can be subject to disciplinary action if they feel like pressing their luck with American laws when returning from Tijuana.

"One of the bigger incidents that happens is Marines returning to the U.S. drunk and being arrested for public intoxication at the border by the U.S. agents," said Hernandez.

Also, contrary to popular belief, there are no special rights or considerations for

"There are no police to support you, so you can't call them if there is trouble."

**Sgt. Eric Babcock
military policeman**

servicemembers who are arrested in Mexico.

Under current laws, they are treated the same as civilians, said Lance Cpl. Nathan M. Crapis, civil law clerk, H&HS.

"Also, if you get in an accident with your vehicle (in Mexico) your insurance will not cover the damages," the Riverside, Calif., native added.

According to Hernandez, theft is also a major issue in Tijuana.

"People have lost their (automatic teller machine) cards when they put it in the machine and it won't give the card back," said Hernandez. "Robbery and theft is a little more common down there."

Also, Marines unfamiliar with the exchange rate can be taken advantage of by the vendors.

"Money exchange you can sometimes have problems with, as well," he added. "Where you'll buy a drink, paying \$10 and only get one back. It (doesn't happen everywhere), but it does happen."

Marines and Sailors need to know



A Marine at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Entertainment Ticket Office looks over brochures Mar. 21 that give tips on how to stay safe while visiting border towns in Mexico, like Tijuana. Servicemembers are urged to take recommended precautions when traveling south of the border to lessen the danger of being victimized in Mexico. Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

these dangers so they can better prepare for them when visiting the border town, said Hernandez.

However, more rules apply to servicemembers than civilians when crossing into Mexico.

"Corporals and above must have a 'liberty buddy' to go to Tijuana," said Hernandez. "Lance corporals and below also require a liberty chit signed off by their commanding officer."

However, there are still plenty of

things luring young Marines across the border while they are on liberty.

"The after hour clubs, nightlife, and drinking age lure some of the younger Marines," said Hernandez.

According to Hernandez, Tijuana's popularity increases during holidays.

"It is a popular spring break area, as well as for long weekends," concluded Hernandez. "However, there are still a lot of dangers down there."

Arrive Alive gets Marines back to base

Story by Lance Cpl. Jenna Lassandrello

MCLB Barstow

MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE BARSTOW, Calif. — It's Saturday night, the nightclub is closing and there is more than enough alcohol in your system. You unlock your car and get into the driver's seat. Your mind fills with thoughts. "I might have drunk too much to drive. It is only a few miles to the base. I can drive just fine, if I pay attention real well. What other option do I have?"

There is another option. It is a small card that is issued to all Marines on base through the Arrive Alive program, called an Arrive Alive card.

The card is a free pass of sorts that can save Marines from having to make poor decisions that can end their careers or lives, said Gunnery Sgt. Ronald Cherry, substance abuse control officer for MCLB Barstow.

Marines can use this card in place of cash to pay for a cab ride home.

There is a number on the card to a cab company that will dispatch a cab to any location as far as San Diego

and Las Vegas.

The Marine can take the cab ride back to the base and give the driver the Arrive Alive card, which he will turn into the Marine Corps Community Services office to get paid for the trip.

The next payday the Marine is obligated to pay back a partial amount of the fare to MCCS.

"This card is not only for Marines that have had too

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Marines
fight fires
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Springtime bicycle safety

By Cpl. Ryan Quinn

Special to the Flight Jacket

Springtime will soon be upon us and it's time to once again refresh ourselves with the proper bicycle safety tips and precautions. Spring is the time of year that bicycle thefts aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar can become more common than a sunny day.

This year, the Provost Marshal's Office, MCAS Miramar, will begin to take a hard look at bicycle registration and regulations, due to the fact that many children are out and about all over base.

PMO's new initiative will include, but not be limited to, stricter enforcement of bicycle regulations and field interviews with people on bicycles in the housing areas during hours of darkness. The enhanced enforcement will hopefully curtail the number of bicycle thefts aboard the air station and housing areas.

PMO receives numerous stolen bicycle reports, a majority of which have been left unsecured.

Bicycles left unsecured in the front yard, fenced-in patios, and open garages are easy targets for thieves.

Owners who reported their bikes stolen failed to take the extra time to ensure the bikes were secured properly.

If bike owners take the following precautions, their "wheels" won't take any unscheduled trips without them:

1. Always lock your bicycle securely and correctly when unattended, even inside a building.
2. If your bicycle is at home, keep it locked, in the garage or basement, and not in the yard or driveway.
3. Lock your bicycle by placing the locking device through both wheels, the frame, and around a stationary object.
4. Use a high-quality lock and a hardened chain or cable to lock your bike.
5. Record and retain the serial number of your bicycle, the sales receipt, and a photograph of your bike with your permanent records.

6. Register your bicycle at the PMO vehicle registration office.

We can't put bicycle thieves out of business, but we can reduce the chances that you will become a victim. A bike can be stolen from just about any place, if the thief wants it badly enough. By following these six security tips, there is a greater chance the thief will bypass your bike and select an easier target.

The enhanced enforcement of regulations, as published in Station Order P5510.2B and the California Vehicle Codes Manual, will go into effect immediately.

Regulations, such as riding a bicycle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, riding without a certified helmet, riding against the flow of traffic and in single file and riding during hours of darkness without the proper lights and reflective equipment, will receive special attention by military police.

In conjunction with an increased emphasis on bicycle safety, PMO will be conducting a free bicycle rodeo from 12 to 2 p.m. Saturday at the parking lot adjacent to the Bob Hope Theater. The event will focus on teaching parents and children bicycle riding and safety regulations.

If you have information regarding bicycle thefts, or any criminal activity aboard the air station, contact the PMO desk sergeant at 577-4068. Don't wait to become a victim before you get involved. For further information, contact the PMO Crime Prevention Unit at 577-6775.



Is this your Toyota?

The above vehicle is marked for impound by the Provost Marshal's Office. To avoid having the vehicle towed, please store it in the Marine Corps Community Services or Traffic Management Office lots. For more information, call 577-1276 or 577-4150.

MIRAMARKS

"What do you think is the biggest risk factor when going to Tijuana?"



SGT. FRANCISCO BARBOSA
Metalsmith
MALS-16

"The biggest risk factor is they are Marines and have the mentality they are invincible. They are in another country but it's a whole different world down there."

LANCE CPL. AARON JIMENEZ
Multi-channel systems operator
MWCS-38

"The fact that when you go to the clubs you get two drinks at once and drinks are a lot cheaper, so people get drunk and do something stupid."



LANCE CPL. RICKY DEOLOZ
Ordnance Technician
VMFA(AW)-121

"Coming back and getting in trouble and having the Tijuana police officers take your money."



Financial assistance available to military family members

Story by Ann Wells

LIFELines

Financing a college education can be an intimidating task. Fortunately, many scholarship opportunities are available to military families to help ease the burden.

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society offers scholarships, grants and interest-free loans to dependent children and spouses of active duty or retired servicemembers. Children of members who died while on active duty or retired are also eligible.

Each NMCRS scholarship or grant has different requirements. Check out www.nmcrs.org for application deadlines and requirements.

The Navy League of the United States offers educational assistance to children of sea services. The scholarships vary in number and size. The NLUS also sponsors an essay contest with a cash prize.

Details are available at <http://www.navyleague.org>.

The Navy Wives Club of America Scholarship Foundation awards forty scholarships annually to children of enlisted personnel of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

For application information, log on to <http://www.navywivesclubsofamerica.org>, or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to NWCA Scholarship Foundation, 3848 Old Colony Circle, Virginia Beach, VA 23452.

The Fleet Reserve Association, a non-profit organization of Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard personnel, awards more than \$25,000 in scholarships annually to FRA family members. Visit <http://www.fra.org> to find membership information and scholarship applications.

The American Legion offers a variety of scholarships, including nursing and Eagle Scout scholarships. For rules and deadlines, check <http://www.legion.org>. The AL also publishes a comprehensive scholarship and financial aid guide entitled "Need a Lift." To order the guidebook, send \$3.95 to American Legion, National Emblem Sales, P.O.

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FLIGHT JACKET

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MAG-11 Marines adopt Team Leader Program

Story by Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, recently implemented a "Team Leader Program" designed to help their Marines overcome various leadership challenges.

To better empower Marines to lead at all levels, the proactive program is a "learning book" of leadership tools, according to Lt. Col. Philippe D. Rogers, commanding officer, Headquarters Squadron, MAG-11.

While other Marine units have used similar leadership mentoring programs, this is a fairly new concept for Marine aviation.

"The Team Leader Program is designed to extend the first line of supervision for safety, mishap reduction, and leadership to the lowest level possible – the fire team leader," explained Rogers. "For many ground-based units, this may sound like nothing new; but for aviation-based units, where this brand of leadership has not necessarily been emphasized in the past, it may very well make a huge difference in how on- and off-duty mishaps are mitigated and reduced."

Working as team leaders, the program enables MAG-11 noncommissioned officers to be the first line of defense for their commands.

"Team Leaders, are given the tools, the means and the authority to be active leaders in providing safety leadership and supervision in their team members' personal and professional lives - from approving their weekend plans to attending their (non-judicial punishment) hearings," said Rogers. "MAG-11 and the Marine Corps will benefit through the enhanced development of its junior leaders and their participation in this first line of defense in safety."

The new program enhances standard Marine Corps leadership methods by pushing down troop leading steps to individual Marines at all levels, not just staff (noncommissioned officers) or commissioned officers.

The implications for the program are significant.

"This program greatly empowers NCOs and facilitates leadership regimentation like



MAG-11 is home to a new Team Leader Program designed to help better empower Marines at all leadership levels with a proactive approach to mentorship, permitting squadrons to take the new guidelines and apply them to help reduce mishaps within the workplace and injuries or fatalities that occur during liberty hours. Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht

one would see in grunt units on the ground side of the Corps," said Rogers. "We're confident that this program will be highly successful. It spells out tools for team leaders, allows for more intimate and closer mentorship, and focuses on the details of junior Marine issues. The team leaders will also see special training, competitions and receive benefits for completing training."

The program permits MAG-11 squadrons to take the new guidelines and run with them.

"The program was created as a measure to help reduce preventable injuries, fatalities, and mishaps within MAG-11," said

Rogers. "The objectives of this program are designed to be achieved by promoting the power of peer influence, by unleashing the leadership might of NCOs, and by realizing the full mentorship potential that staff NCOs and officers bring to the table with regard to their NCOs."

"The program is designed to significantly reduce both mishaps within the workplace and injuries or fatalities that occur during liberty hours. All leadership approaches to proactively eliminate preventable fatalities, injuries, and destruction of government equipment caused by inattention to duty, dis-

obedient attitudes, or a lack of leadership are to be used in the execution of this program."

According to Col. Earl S. Wederbrook, commanding officer, MAG-11, who is ultimately responsible for the program, team leaders will build special trust and confidence between Marines and push leadership further down to the NCO levels.

"If just one Marine calls a team leader concerning a personal problem or for instance, a safety issue, then this program would prove highly successful," said Rogers.

FREE MONEY

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Box 1050, Indianapolis, Ind., 46206.

The previously mentioned are just a few of the scholarships open to military family members. For example, there are several Marine divisions that sponsor scholarships, as does the Navy submarine community and numerous other service-related organizations.

Some of the awards are open to a relatively small group, so extend your search and apply for several different scholarships. More information on scholarships can be found by clicking on the Military Aid section of the financial aid web site at www.finaid.org.

Another good source of information is the Educational Benefits section of the Veterans Administration web site at www.va.gov. Details on educational assistance available to survivors and military family members are provided.

Take advantage of these financial opportunities — apply for scholarships and find interest-free loans. With the extra dollars they can save, you can afford the cost of a college education.

Royal Air Force soars in Yuma skies

Story by Pfc. Kamran Sadaghiani

MCAS Yuma

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz. — Servicemembers with the British Royal Air Force arrived on station March 7 to train their pilots with Marine Attack Squadron-513.

The pilots are training in GR-7 Harriers and have 43 Royal Air Force personnel in support. Their training concluded March 19. “We’ve come here as guests of VMA-513 as part of our Qualified Weapons Instructors course,” said British Royal Air Force Lt. Robin N. Trewinnard, junior engineering officer, 20 Reserve Operational Conversion Unit. “We’re out here to do the British equivalence of the (Weapons and Tactics Instructors course).”

The training will give the pilots the necessary qualifications needed to become weapons instructors, he said. “Our mission is to qualify two pilots in the full range of guided munitions to prepare for ongoing deployments,” said Trewinnard. “We’ve got jets out in Afghanistan at the moment, supporting U.K. and U.S. troops.”

Because of weather issues, the Royal Air Force cannot train as efficiently in their homeland, said Maj. Robert J. Fails, operations officer, VMA-513.

“We can do a lot more out here in less time because the weather is so good,” said Trewinnard. “Back home it’s rainy and cloudy, so we have to wait weeks to get decent weather. Here, the weather is good and we can just drop bombs right away.”

The pilots’ time is limited, so they had to come here to finish their training as safely and quickly as possible, he added.

“The two pilots in the Qualified Weapons Instructor course are here because of the ranges and the weather conditions, which means we can get the bombing done in a shorter time frame,” said British Royal Air Force Flight Lt. Michele Webb, qualified weapons instructor, 20 ROCU.



British Royal Air Force Flight Lt. Dave A. Ashley, GR-7 Harrier pilot, 20 Reserve Harrier Operational Conversion Unit, parks his aircraft as an avionics technician uses hand and arm signals to guide him. The RAF arrived at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma March 7 to train their pilots in their Qualified Weapons Instructors course. Photo by Pfc. Kamran Sadaghiani

“As a squadron, we’ve got a set amount of munitions that we’ve got to drop while we’re here safely, successfully and in a timely manner,” Trewinnard added.

“It’s the quality of the training we get here,” Webb agreed. “The ranges, facilities and weather are much better.”

Another benefit for the Royal Air Force training on station is the opportunity to use more ordnance than they would

at their home base, said Fails.

“We’ve got a whole load of weapons to release that we can’t release in the U.K., such as laser guided bombs and (Global Positioning System) bombs,” said Webb.

VMA-513’s support of the Royal Air Force will help their mission’s success.

Spring is here, almost...



A colorful clown prepares to make a balloon for a child at the Marine Corps Community Services 2005 Spring Carnival Mar. 19 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Celebrating the beginning of Spring, the four-hour event featured rides, food, entertainment and photos with Peter Rabbit. Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht

L.I.N.K.S. assists new spouses

Story by Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

For spouses of Marines new to the Corps, the Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills mentoring classes offered on station are a rich opportunity to learn about all aspects of military life.

“L.I.N.K.S. is a ‘seasoned spouses’ mentoring program given by military spouses to other spouses and is geared toward helping those new to the Marine Corps way of life,” explained Raquel Sanchez, Marine Corps family team building assistant, L.I.N.K.S. Program, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. “It doesn’t matter whether you’ve been married to your Marine for two days or 20 years because there is always something new to learn. Our volunteer mentors share information on life in the Marine Corps in a fun one-day or three-evening session.

“Because living the Marine Corps lifestyle can be a journey, each participant goes home with a tote bag filled to the brim with materials to help make the trip a little easier.”

Monthly L.I.N.K.S. session volunteers welcome new military spouses and focus on various topics, including an introduction to the organization of the Marine Corps, benefits, privileges, resources and families.

“We provide an introduction to the military lifestyle by helping spouses become familiar with what to expect, Marine Corps traditions and a variety of issues,” said



Capt. Stanley M. Horton, deputy director, Marine Corps Family Services, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, exits the Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills house Mar. 21. Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht

Sanchez. “We also help explain things like how to read a Leave and Earnings Statement and provide basic financial budgeting tips. It’s also a great way to meet new people.”

To prepare them for the times when

their Marines are serving away from home, L.I.N.K.S. team leaders also discuss with spouses how to deal with deployments and their inevitable separations, moving to new duty stations and family communication issues, said Angie Olberding, L.I.N.K.S.

team leader, MCAS Miramar.

“The commanding general has attended several of the previous monthly sessions and he said that he is very grateful for what we do and for how much we help maintain mission readiness,” said Sanchez.

Theme parks salute troops with free tickets

Story by Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Honoring our nation's military heroes, one of America's largest theme park operators is inviting U.S. servicemembers and their families to visit various amusement parks throughout the country for free.

The St. Louis-based company Anheuser-Busch Inc. has announced its "Heroes Salute" to honor the U.S. armed services by offering free single-day admission to its Sea World and Busch Gardens theme parks to active duty military, active reservists, members of the U.S. Coast Guard and National Guard, and as many as three direct family members through Dec. 31, 2005.

"In our own small way, we're giving something back to the brave men and women and their families who make sacrifices every day for our country," said August A. Busch IV, president, Anheuser-Busch Inc., in a company press release. "As a salute to America's heroes, we wish to extend a message of thanks and an invitation."

Under the program, any active duty, active Reserve, Ready Reserve or National Guard servicemember is eligible for free

park admission. Servicemembers need only register, either online or in the entrance plaza of participating parks, and show a valid military or Department of Defense photo identification card. Family members may take advantage of the offer without their servicemember present, though an adult must accompany minor dependents.

"I used to go to Anheuser-Busch parks a lot when I was a kid," said Pfc. Dale McIntier, patrolman, Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, and a native of Rexburg, Idaho. "After hearing about this program, my friends and I would really enjoy going to the parks again, especially now that it's free for us and our families."

Military personnel interested in visiting the parks should check operating schedules at www.herosalute.com. Nearly all of the theme parks are open year round, including Sea World located locally in San Diego.

The program has a long history of serving the military. Anheuser-Busch has previously honored the U.S. military with free admission to its theme parks, with nearly 2 million servicemembers and their families having visited for free during the summer following



Honoring our nation's military heroes, Anheuser-Busch amusement parks around the country, such as Sea World in San Diego, are once again opening their gates to servicemembers and their families with free admission under the "Heroes Salute" program. Photo courtesy of Sea World

the first Gulf War and during the Anheuser-Busch Salute to America's Heroes, a tribute that included all branches of the U.S. military following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Even before the Busch family garden was first opened to the public in 1921, donating admission fees to disabled veterans, Anheuser-Busch has traditionally supported the U.S. armed forces for nearly 150 years.

Last year, Anheuser-Busch donated \$1 million to create the Intrepid/Anheuser-Busch Fallen Heroes Fund to provide

scholarships to spouses and children of U.S. military and coalition personnel killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The company also supports Korean and Vietnam Wars veterans' memorials in Washington, D.C., and provides scholarship funds for United Service Organizations members, as well as Gulf War survivors.

For more information on how to take advantage of the program, visit www.anheuser-busch.com, or to register online for free admission, visit www.herosalute.com.

Young Marines play firefighter for a day

Story by Lance Cpl. Patrick J. Floto

MCB Camp Butler

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA, OKINAWA, Japan — Walk into any elementary school classroom and ask the question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?”

The kids will excitedly shout out:

“Astronaut!”

“Policeman!”

“Firefighter!”

Fifty-one Young Marines got a taste of what it would be like to try one of these occupations when they made a visit to the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting section, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Feb. 19. The Young Marines, ranging from ages eight to 18, found out it’s possible to combine two exciting jobs into one – that of a U.S. Marine and a firefighter.

The Young Marines program is designed to develop leadership skills and build moral character in its members. Each Young Marine earns their title by completing a 26-hour orientation program, also fondly known as “boot camp.” While in the program, the participants learn new skills that aid them in their careers as Young Marines.

“We initially just wanted to have a former Young Marine sergeant major, who was working (at ARFF), come in and talk to the Young Marines,” said Staff Sgt. Gary A. Wilson, officer in charge, Camp Foster Young Marines. “(The Marine firefighter)

offered to speak to the kids and show them what he did for a living. It seemed like a good field trip for the Young Marines.”

“We split the kids into three groups, so every kid could learn the basic techniques to put out a fire,” said Staff Sgt. Bobby L. Clark, an ARFF section leader. “They learned the ropes out here; everything from bunker drills (donning a fire-protection suit) to discharging water out of a (fire hose), to putting out a simulated fire made out of traffic cones.”

In addition to learning how to put the fire out, the Young Marines also learned that in an emergency situation the ARFF Marines have only two minutes to get into their gear and be at the scene.

“My favorite part was getting dressed up in the suit,” said eight-year-old Young Marine Pvt. Emily Lunde, as she struggled to step out of boots that came up past her knees. “The boots are really heavy. It was hard walking around in them. I think I could do it as good as the Marines if I had a couple days of training.”

The Young Marines also got a chance to shoot water out of an ultra-high-pressure extinguishing system mounted on the P-19 fire engine. During a fire, the extinguishing system puts out approximately 90 percent of the fire.

“After most of the fire is out, we send the Marines in with (fire hoses) to put out spot fires and clear a path for the rescue men to retrieve the fire victims,” Clark explained.

Prior to playing firefighter for the day,



Lance Cpl. Christian Perez (left) assists Young Marines Pvt. Alex Von Pluerin and Sgt. Zachary S. Lawhorn in getting suited-up in fire protection gear as a part of the Young Marines’ visit to the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting section, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, Feb. 19. Photo by Lance Cpl. Patrick J. Floto

the Young Marines had the opportunity to listen to a former Young Marine sergeant major talk about the benefits of the Young Marine program.

Cpl. John A. Clemente, now a crew chief with the ARFF section, explained how the program would benefit the kids if they decided to join the Marine Corps later in their lives.

“I joined the Young Marines because I was planning on enlisting, and I just wanted a heads-up as to what it would be like,” Clemente said. “These kids have a huge advantage over others if they decide to

become Marines, with all the leadership experience they gain.”

The Young Marines asked many questions about the ARFF military occupational specialty.

Clemente’s answers gave them an inside look at what it might be like to be a Marine firefighter.

“This was a great opportunity to show people what we do and how we contribute to the Corps,” Clark said. “A lot of Marines don’t even know we exist, and this is one of the few chances our Marines get to show off what we do.”

ARRIVE

continued from page 1

much to drink, but for any situation where a Marine will need a ride to the base,” said Cherry.

“You can use the card as many times as you need to, at anytime and for any reason you need to, no matter if it is because you are stranded or because your car breaks down. It doesn’t matter why you need to use it. It is just important to have it on you so that you can get home safely at anytime,” he said.

To date, no one has taken advantage of the program and that is probably of fear of the repercussions. “That is the best part,” said Cherry, “there are (no repercussions).”

“This is not a program to monitor Marines usage of alcohol.”

The purpose of the program is only to get Marines back to base safely,” he stressed.

The previous battalion commander, Maj. Wayne O. Cox, signed a battalion order, stating that every Marine MCLB Barstow will have a card and should keep it on them at all times.

According to Staff Sgt. Dexter C. Bolding, substance abuse control officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, military personnel serving aboard the air station can find more information about their unit’s Arrive Alive program by contacting their unit safety officer.

“Because the Arrive Alive policy varies from unit to unit aboard Miramar, it’s always better for Marines to check with their unit’s safety officer,” said Bolding.

Marines form 'Band of Brothers'

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Serving in the Marine Corps is all about belonging to a brotherhood.

However, for two siblings serving with Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, the word brotherhood contains a deeper meaning.

Captain Richard Allain and his younger brother, 1st Lt. Christopher P. Allain, entered the Marine Corps approximately two years apart—much in the same way they entered the world — and are currently serving with two of Miramar's top fixed-wing squadrons.

"Captain Allain received a commission through the (Platoon Leaders Course) upon graduating from the University of Florida and I received my commission through the Naval Academy," said 1st Lt. Allain, F/A-18 pilot, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121, MAG-11, 3rd MAW. "It just worked out that we ended up in sister squadrons."

According to the younger sibling, having a family member in the same profession makes serving in the aviation community easier.

"It is great having another family member that can speak the same language," he mentioned. "Not only 'Marine-speak,' but the aviator's language as well."

"Subsequently, the big brother role kicks in not only at home, but in the office as well," the younger brother added.

"(Richard) frequently gives me (warnings) on what to expect on the upcoming flights and we constantly fill each other in on what we each are doing as far as flying that week."

In addition to providing the brothers with a familiar face, having a close relative in the same profession has also helped them form a bond on a different level.

"Not only (do we have) a bond from being Marines," said Capt. Allain, F/A-18 pilot, Marine All-Weather Fighter



Capt. Richard Allain, pilot, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, (left), and 1st Lt. Christopher P. Allain, pilot, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121, MAG-11, 3rd MAW, stand next to an F/A-18 Hornet at Miramar March 3. The brothers entered into the Marines through different programs and flight schools, ending up in adjacent squadrons last year. Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

Attack Squadron 225, MAG-11, 3rd MAW. "You'll find there is also a bond between aviators. It is the same thing as a bond between two infantrymen."

"It is a bond where two people can tell a joke that only they can understand," he added.

According to the younger Marine, the aviators' bond only helps strengthen family ties and motivates both brothers to do better.

"If anything, the fact that we both fly jets for the Marine Corps has brought us closer together and con-

stantly pushes us to out do one another," said 1st Lt. Allain. "We tell each other stories about flying that would only be funny to another pilot and stories that freaked us out; stories that we couldn't even tell our girlfriends."

Having served in the Marine Corps for a combined total of ten years, neither brother knows if or when they will depart the Corps.

"There are too many variables to even think about it," said Capt. Allain. "Both of us have eight year contracts.

Mine expires 2010 and (1stLt. Allain's) expires in 2012. I think we are both very happy being Marines.

"I think most Marines find that the longer you have been in the Marine Corps, the harder it is to not be in the Corps," he added. "I find it (becomes) harder to communicate with my friends who are not Marines. You expect certain things from Marines, you expect integrity, honor and commitment, and these core values just don't mean the same thing in the civilian world."

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES!



MCAS Miramar needs servicemembers from all ranks, occupations, experiences, backgrounds and upbringings to participate in the Guest Speaker Program. If you are interested, call the Community Relations Department at (858) 577-4333.

An appreciative audience awaits

Chaplain completes final hump

Story by Lance Cpl. Joseph L. DiGirolamo

MCB Camp Pendleton

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — He not only walks with the Lord, he walks with the troops as well.

Navy Lt. Ryan R. Rupe, chaplain, School of Infantry, marked his 102nd hike with the Marines from Marine Combat Training Battalion March 9, finishing his final journey with the students.

“His 100-plus hikes are quite an accomplishment,” said Lt. Col. Eric M. Mellinger, commanding officer for MCTB. “It speaks volumes of his commitment to be with the Marines.”

Rupe’s new orders will place him on ship, where he will be unable to hike anymore.

“Were losing a big part of our family,” said Gunnery Sgt. Rile Reall, company First Sergeant for Company I, MCT.

Inspired by Father Dennis Rocheford, a chaplain at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Rupe mimicked his style of ministering to the Marines. Rocheford hiked with his Marines at Officer Candidates School, doling out Jolly Ranchers along the way. Rupe followed suit.

“I thought I might as well hike with



Navy Lt. Ryan R. Rupe smiles for the camera during his 102nd - and last - hike March 9 as the chaplain for Marine Combat Training Battalion. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph L. DiGirolamo

Marines,” Rupe said, “because I won’t normally have much of a chance to work with students due to the fact that they come in and out so fast.”

Rupe has greatly impacted not only the students, but the non-commissioned officer and staff non-commissioned officer instructors who make up the battalion, Mellinger said.

“Chaplain Rupe was a luxury for the infantry battalion to have,” Mellinger said. “A full-time chaplain that could help and assist us with training and mentoring Marines going through combat training was great.”

Rupe has amassed 102 hikes total. Of those hikes, ninety-four of them were 10 kilometers long and eight of them 15 kilometers long. He passed out more than 31,000 Jolly Ranchers, in addition to several

thousand Bibles and rosaries.

Along the way, he committed hundreds of hours to field training. During the exercises, Rupe counseled more than 2,000 Marines. One night alone, he counseled more than 50 Marines, he said.

“The most important fact about Rupe is that he gave the young Marines an example of a chaplain who will be with them whether it is in combat or on the hike,” Mellinger said.

One of Rupe’s fondest memories goes back 100 hikes ago, back to his second trek with the students.

“All the Marines were lined up to hike,” Rupe said, remembering back to a foggy morning at 5 a.m. “All the Marine instructors were just yelling and getting everyone ready. Music was playing in the background from a car to motivate the Marines.”

Standing amid the student Marines in formation, getting ready to attack an extraordinary steep trail, Rupe could only wonder: what did he get himself into?

“Crawling up the Ankle Breaker, for the first time I literally thought I was going to have a stroke, I didn’t think I could do it,” Rupe said.

In the end, Rupe knew that the only way to get stronger was to keep going. “I told myself that I’m making an impact on people I’m never going to see again.”

During one trip, Rupe sprained his ankle on some hardened soil; he taped his ankle up and kept marching.

“Through the painful experiences he always seemed to be having fun,” said Navy Chief Follis Davison, leading chief petty officer for Headquarters and Support Battalion.

Georgia native 'insures' fighter jets

Story by Sgt. Juan Vara

2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

AL ASAD, Iraq — He went from helping drivers save 15 percent or more on car insurance to helping squadrons save time getting jets back in the fight.

Corporal Brandon T. Wellman had to put his job as an insurance agent on hold when his unit was activated and deployed to support the mission of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A radar technician for F/A-18A Hornets, Wellman is temporarily serving with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 26 (Reinforced), Marine Aircraft Group 26, 2nd MAW. His parent command, MALS-42, is a reserve squadron based at Naval Air Station Atlanta, Marietta, Ga.

"It's good to actually be doing something with the Corps, not just working on the aircraft during our annual training or weekends," he said. "I finally get to do what I signed up for."

Wellman, 23, is a 2000 graduate of Hawkinsville High School in Hawkinsville, Ga. He joined the Marine Corps in June 2000 and after graduating from Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., attended Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, N.C.

After completing an avionics course at NAS Pensacola, Fla., he reported to NAS Lemoore, Calif., to learn rapid tests and repairs of the F/A-18 weapons radar.

Done with all his training and schools, Wellman joined the "War Hammers" of MALS-42 in July 2001 and began providing aviation logistics support to Marine aircraft squadrons two weeks in the summertime and two days out of every month.

After six months doing this he began working as a recruiters' aid in Warner Robins, Ga., and was meritoriously promoted to his current rank. Twenty-five months later he returned to Marietta. To support his family he took a job in the sales department of the Government Employees Insurance Company, where he takes company calls and counsels callers on how auto insurance works and how to make it meet their needs.

When his unit was activated in January he was sent to NAS Forth Worth, Texas, for training in the Consolidated Automated Support System, the world's largest military avionics automated test program, and once he completed the training he went back to



Corporal Brandon T. Wellman, radar technician, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 26 (Reinforced), Marine Aircraft Group 26, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, removes a circuit card from a radar transmitter March 16. Photo by Sgt. Juan Vara

Marietta and deployed to Iraq.

In a couple of months, the unit went from being a reserve squadron to an activated unit reinforcing an aviation logistics squadron serving in Iraq. "That's what separates the Marine Corps reserves from all of the other services," said Wellman. "We were activated in January and we're already here. Other services would have taken months to prepare, we're always ready."

Leaving MALS-42 and joining MALS-26 (Rein) has been a seamless process, he said. "It was an easy transition, a grape can be yellow or purple but it's still a grape. The real transition was going from civilian to Marine; from sitting behind a computer selling insurance, to fixing aircraft."

Staff Sgt. Jamie A. Yerges, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of Wellman, was one of his instructors once and considers him integral to the squadron's fixed-wing support element.

"I'm able to see Corporal Wellman use his abilities to make a direct impact in a combat support role," said Yerges, supervisor of the work center in which components, such as radars and cockpit displays, are repaired and a Wellsboro, Pa., native. "I am impressed to see how he's honed the basic skills I taught him in 2001."

Married and the father of a 1-year-old son, Wellman said he misses being with his family, but understands he has a job to do. "You go from being with them every day, watching him grow and then you're gone for several months. What makes it easy is that once he gets older I'll be able to tell him I was here serving our country and helping liberate Iraq."

Fixing electronic components for fighter jets may take longer than a 15-minute phone call, but Wellman's dedication to the mission keeps him excited to do it.

"I stay busy at work, keep my mind on the gear and I stay concentrated," he said. "All we worry about is making sure the birds fly."

Helo mech re-enlists in Iraq with new aircraft in mind

Story by Sgt. Juan Vara

2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

AL ASAD, Iraq — Aspiring to join the officer ranks, and with the MV-22 Osprey in mind, Staff Sgt. Roger W. King re-enlisted here March 11.

A helicopter mechanic assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269, Marine Aircraft Group 29, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, currently in Iraq supporting the mission of the 2nd MAW (Forward) during Operation Iraqi Freedom, King has served in the Corps for eight years and re-enlisted for four years and 11 months more.

Once the Gravette, Ark., native completes his tour he'll report to the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training at Marine Corps Air Station, New River, N.C., to become an MV-22 flightline mechanic. In his upcoming job, King will work on several of the Osprey's components, such as flight controls, engines, rotors and fuel systems.

"I think it's a great move for a Marine who has been in the aviation field for some time to make a lateral move to become an Osprey mechanic," said Sgt. Rodrigo A. DiazColoma, career retention specialist HMLA-269, and Bay Shore, N.Y., native. "He has a lot of experience fixing aircraft and this benefits the Marine Corps and the Osprey program."

The Osprey will be the fourth type of aircraft King has worked on since joining the Corps in 1997. Before working on the UH-1N Huey and AH-1W Super Cobra, he was a CH-46E Sea Knight mechanic assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 365, MAG-29, at MCAS New River.

In June 2002, King joined the "Gunrunners" of HMLA-269, where he trained for five months to become a Huey and Super Cobra mechanic. When he reported to the Naval Air Maintenance Training Marine Unit, Camp Pendleton, Calif., for training, he completed all tests and received all certifications in just two days.

"My grandfather was a door gunner in Vietnam, so I always wanted to make my way over to the Hueys and Cobras," said King. "I've done it and I want to move on to see what the Marine Corps can do for me, or what I can do for it."

King said he wants to spend a few years in his new job and submit the paperwork to be considered for appointment to warrant officer. A warrant officer is a technical officer specialist who performs duties that require extensive knowledge, training and experience with particular systems or equipment.

"If the Corps doesn't see fit to promote me to warrant officer then I'll keep marching on as far as I can in the enlisted side," King said.

Diaz said King's decision to re-enlist and become an Osprey mechanic will have a ripple effect among other aircraft mechanics and will increase the retention of experienced maintainers.

"The Marine Corps is transitioning to the Osprey and the future leaders of our



Staff Sgt. Roger W. King, helicopter mechanic, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269, Marine Aircraft Group 29, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, reinstalls the tunnel cowling of a UH-1N Huey March 12. King recently re-enlisted and will make a lateral move to become an MV-22 Osprey mechanic. Photo by Sgt. Juan Vara

Corps should move in that direction," he said. "Why would anyone not make this move to better their career? There are other Marines who want a new challenge, and by seeing Staff Sergeant King re-enlist and make this lateral move, they'll raise their voice and make the move as well."

Miramar Movies

The Station Auditorium is located in building 2242, and will be featuring the following movies free of charge. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information, contact 577-4143 or log on to www.mccsmiramar.com.

Friday:

4:30 p.m. Pooh's Heffalump Movie (G)
6:30 p.m. Hide and Seek (R)
8:45 p.m. Sideways (R)

Saturday:

6:30 p.m. Are We There Yet? (PG)
8:30 p.m. The Wedding Date (PG-13)

Sunday:

1:00 p.m. Are We There Yet? (PG-13)
6:30 p.m. Phantom of the Opera (PG-13)

Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. Hotel Rwanda (PG-13)

Thursday:

2:00 p.m. Son of the Mask (PG)
6:30 p.m. Boogeyman (PG-13)

Post Office Relocation

The Miramar Post Office, located in Building 2257, is closed due to remodeling for approximately eight to 10 weeks. Construction has begun and during this period, all financial transactions, which include mailing parcels, as well as purchasing stamps and money orders, will be conducted at a satellite location behind Bldg. 2257. For more information, call (858) 577-6058.

Religious Services

The Chaplain's Office is located in building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain's Office at 577-1333.

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist

Wednesday:

7 p.m. Baptist service

Monday-Friday:

11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass

Jewish:

7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

Tax Center Assistance

The MCAS Miramar Income Tax Center is now available to help servicemembers prepare and electronically file their federal and state income taxes for free. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call (858) 577-1040.

Commissary Dollar Days

The Defense Commissary Agency is bringing "Dollar Days" to the MCAS Miramar Commissary, a campaign designed to offer customers a multitude of increased bargains. The "Dollar Days" promotion will run from Thursday to April 13 and items throughout the commissary will feature dollar pricing, reflecting the popular "dollar store" concept.

For more information, call 577-4516.

PMO holds Bike Rodeo

The Provost Marshal's Office is conducting a free bicycle rodeo from 12 to 2 p.m. Saturday at the parking lot adjacent to the Bob Hope Theater. The rodeo is being held to help raise the awareness of Miramar parents and their children in regards to the rules and regulations of bicycle riding and safety. For more information, call (858) 577-6775.

CIA looking for applicants

The CIA will have recruiters at the MCABWA auditorium Wednesday beginning at 2:30 p.m. A senior operations officer and a regional recruiter will be conducting an information session to discuss hiring requirements and the employment process.

For more information, call 577-6491.

Impounded Vehicles

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average \$113, storage fees \$28 daily. For more information contact the Provost Marshal's Office at 577-1461.

Vehicle:	License:	Vehicle:	License:
1995 Dodge Neon	CA/3KGZ374	1993 Plymouth Voyager	4HVP334
1989 Subaru GL	CA/1REE135	Unk. Mazda 626	CA/1STD385
Unk. Honda Prelude	No Plates No VIN	1993 Ford Escourt	CA/3EKK843
Red Sea King Boat	No Plates No ID	1998 Honda DX	CA/2YBS381
Hydra Sports Boat	FL/CZ39M	Unk. Honda Accord	GA/77693
Unk. VW Jetta	No Plates No VIN	1990 Ford Mustang	CA/2TAX992

